<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 28, 2005. Claims 41 to 47 are pending in the application, with Claims 46 and 47 having been newly-added. Claims 41, 46 and 47 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 41 to 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,707,570 (Gotanda). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns controlling printing of a received print order. According to the invention, when a server receives a print order and information indicating a start time for when a print process of the order is to be started, the server controls whether or not to store the print order. If the print order is controlled not to be stored, then the print process to output the print order is immediately performed after the print order is received. If the print order is stored, however, then the print order is output when a designation of the print order stored in the server is accepted. As a result, the print order processing is controlled based on the received information designating the start time for the print process.

Referring specifically the claims, independent Claim 41 is directed to an information processing apparatus which communicates with a print management apparatus via a network, comprising print order receiving means for receiving a print order, receiving means for receiving information designating a start time for starting a print process of the received print order, control means for controlling whether or not to store the received print order in accordance with the received information designating the start time of the print process, accepting means for accepting, from an external apparatus, a designation of at

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least one stored print order for which a print process is intended to be started, and outputting means for outputting the print order which is stored by the control means, to the print management apparatus in accordance with the designation accepted by the accepting means, or outputting the received print order which is not stored by the control means, to the print management apparatus immediately after the print order is received by the print order receiving means.

Newly-added independent Claims 46 and 47 are method and computer program claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 41.

The applied art of Gotanda is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of controlling whether or not to store a received print order based on received information designating a start time for starting a print process for the received print order, and outputting the stored print order in accordance with an accepted designation of the print order from an external apparatus, or outputting the received print order which is not stored immediately after the print order is received.

Gotanda is seen to disclose that a user utilizes an airplane boarding pass to upload images at a departure location via an image ordering and printing apparatus 2. The user can then use the boarding pass at their arrival location to pickup the printed images at another image ordering and printing apparatus 2 at the arrival location. In Gotanda, a print order is sent from an image ordering and printing apparatus 2 to a host computer 1 if the user wants to have the images printed at the destination. If the images are to be picked-up, the host computer is queried in regard to the time at which the print can be picked up. (See column 9, lines 54-60.) The host computer then transmits the received print order to the image ordering and printing apparatus in accordance with that time and time required for

printing. (See column 11, lines 12-17.) Thus, in Gotanda, if the user desires to print the images immediately, they simply insert a recording medium with the images recorded thereon into the apparatus 2, whereby the images are printed out, without any need for intervention by host computer 1. On the other hand, if the user desires to print out the images at another location and to pickup the images, the image data recorded on the recording medium is uploaded and stored in the host computer. Based on the pickup time, the host computer then transmits the print order to the destination apparatus 2, whereby the images are immediately printed out. Therefore, none of the print ordering and printing apparatuses 2 control whether or not to store the received print order based on received designated start time information indicating a start time for outputting the data when it is received from the host computer, but rather, they print the order upon receipt from the host computer. Accordingly, Gotunda is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 41, 46 and 47, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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